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Agenda item 93 (c)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir **Gerus** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 93 (see A/53/608, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 28th, 36th, 40th and 41st meetings, on 29 October and on 10, 24 and 25 November 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.28, 36, 40 and 41).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.19 and A/C.2/53/L.42

2. At the 28th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda" (A/C.2/53/L.19), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/53/608 and Add.1–7.

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"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 52/192 of 18 December 1997 on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements,

"*Also recalling* that, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 51/177, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations , together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

"*Recalling* paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, in which the Conference recommended that the General Assembly consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,

"*Further recalling* its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, in which it, *inter alia*, decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the modalities of which were to be decided on at its fifty-third session,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on proposals on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

"1. *Takes note*, with appreciation, of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the modalities for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"2. *Decides* that the special session will be held in June 2001 for a period of five working days;

"3. *Decides* to designate the Commission on Human Settlements to serve as the preparatory committee for the special session;

"4. *Also decides* that the Commission, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, shall be open-ended to allow full participation of all Member States;

"5. *Invites* representatives of local authorities, other Habitat Agenda partners and relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, to contribute to the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission and the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

"6. *Also invites* the Commission, serving as the preparatory committee, to meet for two working days back-to-back with its forthcoming seventeenth session in order to, *inter alia*, elect its officers, adopt appropriate rules of procedure and consider the organization of work for its first substantive session, to be held in April–May 2000 at Nairobi for five working days, and invites the preparatory committee at its first

substantive session to consider the modalities for the second substantive session, to be held in 2001;

"7. *Requests* the Commission, at its seventeenth session, to make practical arrangements for devoting its eighteenth regular session to the preparatory process and to make recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

"8. *Invites* the Commission, at its seventeenth session, to include in its agenda an item entitled 'Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda';

"9. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council to devote its high-level segment in 2000 to human settlements issues and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"10. *Further invites* the Economic and Social Council to actively promote and coordinate the role of the regional commissions in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the regional and subregional levels;

"11. *Invites* the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as banks, to consider convening high-level meetings to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Conference, and to report the results of their review to the Economic and Social Council;

"12. *Requests* other relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, to strongly contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session a sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)'."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Burak Özügergin (Turkey), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda" (A/C.2/53/L.42), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.19.

4. The Secretary of the Committee read out a statement regarding the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.42.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.42 (see para. 10).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.31

7. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, at the request of the representative of Indonesia, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of the sponsors, namely, the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution

entitled "Revitalization of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)" (A/C.2/53/L.31), which read:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* paragraph 229 of the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which it was stated that the functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would need to be assessed with a view to its revitalization,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 and 52/190 of 18 December 1997, in which it requested the Secretary-General to undertake, in the light of the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with a view to its revitalization,

"*Bearing in mind* the objectives, functions and responsibilities given to the Commission on Human Settlements by the Conference, as set out in paragraphs 222 to 227 of the Habitat Agenda, and by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/192, and the functions and responsibilities given to the Centre by the Conference, as set out in paragraphs 228 and 229 of the Habitat Agenda,

"*Bearing in mind* paragraph 7 of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 14/19 of 5 May 1993, in which the Commission strongly recommended that the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) be kept under distinct senior management in accordance with the specific nature and activities of the two bodies,

"*Bearing in mind* also paragraph 3 (c) of section I of its resolution 47/212 B, in which it requested the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposal to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in view of the recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council and the views expressed by Member States,

"*Recalling* paragraph 4 of its resolution 48/176, in which it requested the Secretary-General to give full consideration to the views expressed by Member States regarding the high-level leadership of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through distinct and separate management and direction as contemplated in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977,

"*Recalling also* paragraph 29 of its resolution 48/228 of 23 December 1993, in which it reiterated its request in section I, paragraph 3 (c), of its resolution 47/212 B and stressed the need for the Secretary-General to implement fully and promptly the decisions of the General Assembly contained therein,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

"2. *Endorses* the recommendations on the management of the Centre, as contained in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the report of the Secretary-General;

"3. *Welcomes* the establishment and the terms of reference of the team of experts for the revitalization of the Centre, as indicated in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to submit the

recommendations of the team of experts and the views of Member States to the Commission on Human Settlements at its seventeenth session for action, as appropriate;

"4. *Reaffirms* the need to keep the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) under separate and distinct management and direction, as requested by the Commission on Human Settlements in paragraph 7 of its resolution 14/19 and by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of its resolution 48/176, paragraph 3 (c) of section I of its resolution 47/212 B and paragraph 29 of its resolution 48/228, and as was contemplated by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/162;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

8. At the 41st meeting, on 25 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Burak Özügergin (Turkey), informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.31 had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft decision

9. At its 41st meeting, on 25 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (A/53/512) (see para. 11).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 52/192 of 18 December 1997 on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling that, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 51/177, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Also recalling paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, in which the Conference recommended that the General Assembly consider holding a special

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,

Further recalling its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, in which it, *inter alia*, decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the modalities of which were to be decided on at its fifty-third session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[2]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the modalities for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

2. *Decides* that the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be held in June 2001 for a period of three working days;

3. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[3] and the Habitat Agenda[1] and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

4. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not Members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

5. *Also decides* that the Commission on Human Settlements, which is currently scheduled at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions to focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact, should serve as the preparatory committee for the special session;

6. *Further decides* that the Commission, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, shall be open-ended to allow full participation of all States;

7. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of local authorities, other Habitat Agenda partners and relevant actors of civil society, in particular the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Habitat II Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

8. *Invites* Governments to play an active role in the preparatory process, *inter alia*, through an intensified exchange of experiences, and welcomes the proposals received so far, from Singapore to hold an international conference on model cities from 19 to 21 April 1999, and from Germany to hold an international conference, entitled "Urban 21", in 2000;

9. *Invites* the Commission on Human Settlements, serving as the preparatory committee, to meet for two working days back-to-back with its forthcoming seventeenth

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[2] A/53/267.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

session in order, *inter alia*, to elect its officers, adopt appropriate rules of procedure and consider the organization of work for its first substantive session, to be held at Nairobi for five working days in May 2000, and invites the preparatory committee, at its first substantive session, to consider the modalities, duration, date and agenda for the second substantive session, to be held in 2001;

10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to devote its coordination segment in 2000 to human settlements issues and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

11. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council to actively promote and coordinate the role of the regional commissions in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the regional and subregional levels;

12. *Invites* the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening high-level meetings to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Conference and to report the results of their review to the Economic and Social Council;

13. *Requests* other relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the funds and programmes, consistent with their respective mandates, to contribute, as appropriate, to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to send representatives to the sessions of the preparatory committee and the special session of the General Assembly in June 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

* * *

11. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).[4]

[4] A/53/512.